

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 15 and 17 through 20 are in the case and are presented for consideration. By this amendment, Applicant has made changes to independent claim 1. Additionally, Applicant has presented allowable claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 18 in independent form. Claim 16 has been canceled.

The disclosure has been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has canceled the list of reference numbers at page 17. It is noted that this was included only for the convenience, for examination. Although some US patents have been printed with such a list, such is not normally present in granted US patents such that the list has now been canceled.

Claims 1 and 7 have been objected to because of the use of the acronym (LOX). This has now been deleted from the claims.

Claim 8 has been rejected as being indefinite. Applicant has now revised the claim such that there is no longer an antecedent basis problem. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful reading of the claims and for the helpful comments. It is Applicant's position that claim 8, now written to overcome the rejection and in independent form, is allowable, as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 1 – 4, 7, 9, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Carter Jr. (US 3, 473, 337).

Applicant has now revised claim 1 to highlight important submarine aspects of the invention which differentiate from the cited underwater power plant. Most notably, the invention relates to a submarine in the normal sense of the term, namely a vehicle typically for

taking humans under water which typically has a drive and a propeller. A typical feature of such a submarine is an outer vessel hull with a driven propeller extending on an outer side thereof. Such an outer vessel hull is the outer skin of the submarine. Where such a submarine is for humans, namely a human crew, it is necessary to also provide a pressure hull within the outer vessel hull, such defining a space with a pressure that humans can live in and defining a crew space for a human submarine crew. These features have been noted in claim 1, to differentiate from a container or other structure which can be used under water. Claim 1 has further been clarified with respect to the pressure hull fully surrounding the outer pressure container.

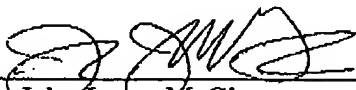
The combination of features including the typical submarine features and the features already presented in claim 1 are quite important according to the invention. The combination of features of claim 1 are clearly not anticipated by the Carter Jr. reference. Further, it is the features in combination which present novel aspects which are not suggested by the prior art as a whole. These novel aspects address particular problems in the submarine field, particularly allowing for the provision of a large amount of oxygen, for example for use with a fuel cell without some of the significant problems which have been encountered. The invention presents a departure from the prior art by including, among other things, a liquid oxygen container located within the pressure hull, namely the space with a defined pressure. This pressure hull space is provided for use by the human crew and for housing and protecting other features which must be protected from the outer environment. As such, the provision of liquid oxygen in such a sensitive environment presents problems, particularly as to

endangering the safety of the vessel and those traveling on board. The invention provides this liquid oxygen tank within the pressure hull of the submarine where this is within an outer pressure container, which is also within the pressure hull of the submarine. Although this additional container provides some protection, the invention presents an overall system allowing fluid to be released from the pressure hull (from the liquid oxygen tank or the outer pressure container) if a predefined pressure is exceeded within either one of the two pressure containers. This combination of features is particular to such a pressure hull situation and is also particular to the safety of such submarine vessels, particularly with regard to the safety of those traveling on board.

The Carter Jr. reference fails to teach and fails to suggest several aspects of the claimed combination. Although Carter Jr. provides a liquid container which is surrounded by an outer container 12, this itself is not within a pressure hull. Further, Carter Jr. reference does not present issues relating to the problems of such a pressure hull or the problems and dangers of containing pressurized gas and/or liquid having a low boiling point/evaporation point, in such a pressure hull. Of course there is also not a further submarine vessel hull, a feature typically found on such submarines (wherein the pressure hull is within the confines or perimeter of such a vessel hull). As such, the Carter Jr. reference fails to teach and fails to suggest the combination of features claimed. As claim 1 defines a combination not suggested by the prior art as a whole, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 1 as now presented and allow claim 1 and claims depending thereon.

Further and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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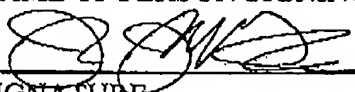
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